व्यवस्था के अधीन लगभग 74 लाख मीटरी टन खाद्यान्नों का स्टाक पड़ा हुआ है।

(ख) किसानों को समर्थन मूल्य देने और खाद्यान्नों का अपना स्टाक बेचने के लिए उनकी मदद करने के लिए सरकारी एजेन्सियों द्वारा समर्थन मूल्यों पर खाद्यान्नों की वसूली की जाती है। वसूल किए गए खाद्यान्नों के लिए भारतीय खाद्य निगम, राज्य सरकारें और उनकी एजेन्सियां भंडारण क्षमता सुलभ करती है। इसके अलावा, सेन्ट्रल वेयरहाउसिंग कारपोरेशन, जोकि इस मंत्रालय का एक उपक्रम है और राज्य भांडागार निगमों, जिनमें सेन्ट्रल वेयरहाउसिंग कारपोरेशन धन लगा रहा है, ने वैज्ञानिक भंडारण सुविधाओं की व्यवस्था की है जोकि किसानों सहित जमाकर्ताओं को उपलब्ध है। सेन्ट्रल वेयरहाउसिंग कारपोरेशन किसानों को भंडारण प्रभारों में 10 प्रतिशत का रिबेट भी देती है।

Employment of child labour in cracker factories at Viva Kasi in Tamil Nadu

997. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of large scale employment of child labour in the cracker factories at Siva Kasi in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to prevent such practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The Employment of Children Act, 1938 *inter alia* bans the employment of children below the age of 14 years in the match and fireworks industry.

Enforcement of the Provisions of the Employment of Children Act, 1938 in the match & fireworks industry, is the responsibility of the State Government. The Central Government has been addressing the State Government of Tamil Nadu from time to time to strictly enforce the provisions of the Employment of Children Act.

Bonded labourers in Uttar Pradesh

998. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bonded labourers who have been set free so far in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) how many of them have been rehabilitated; and

(c) what are the plans to rehabilitate the remaining ones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) 16,229 as on 1-1-1986.

(b) 13,793.

(c) Annual targets are given to the State Government for rehabilitation of bonded labour. It is expected that all the released bonded labour shall be rehabilitated during the Seventh Plan period for which central assistance on 50:50 basis will be given to the State as per Centrally Sponsored Scheme for rehabilitation of bonded labourers.

Advance licences to exporters of natural silk products

999. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether advance licences with duty exemptions are being granted to the exporters of natural silk products;

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme; and

(c) what steps have been taken to ensure that the export obligations are fulfilled and the exporters do not import raw silk under various other provisions of the Import Policy of 1983-84 and 1984-85?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are given in Appendix 19 of Import-Export Policy, 85—88 (Vol. I.)

(c) A provision exists under Duty Exemption Scheme in para 29 of Appendix 19 of Import-Export Policy, 1985—88 (Vol. I) for follow-up and penal action in order to ensure fulfilment of Export Obligations.

2. Value of the licence for raw silk under Duty Exemption Scheme is adjusted against the REP entitlement as provided in the policy for 1983-84, 1984-85 and the current policy.

3. Procurement of raw silk from the canalising agency in terms of import policy for 1983-84, 1984-85 and the current policy by Actual Users (Industrial) is subject to 'Actual User' condition.

News-item captioned 'Assets worth Rs. 43 lakhs seized

1000. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Assets worth Rs. 43 lakhs seized" which appeared in the "Statesman" of the 20th February, 1986;

(b) whether any investigation has been made as to how these officers in the office of the Chief Controller of Exports and Imports accumulated so much in cash and kind and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take so as to keep a watch on officers working in vulnerable position?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The case is under investigation by C.B.I.

(c) The officers concerned have been placed under suspension and constant watch is being kept on Officers working in sensitive positions.

Suggestions on Budget and fiscal policy from the public

1001. SHRI J. K. JAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has invited proposals and suggestions from the general public on Budget and fiscal policy of Government;

(b) if so, whether any cash awards have been offered for the same;

(c) what has been the response of the general public towards the offer;

(d) whether any cash awards have been made; and

(e) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A cash prize of Rs. 2,000 was offered for the best set of suggestions in the first announcement. This was subsequently raised to Rs. 5,000.

(c) The response of the public has been very good.

(d) and (e) The suggestions are being scrutinised. Those which, after screening, are found to be useful will be considered for the award.

Study made by RBI on bank fraud

1002. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent study made by the Reserve Bank of India has revealed that over 10,000 cases of